

DUXBURY BEACH

Duxbury Clipper, Thursday, February 27, 1975

REPORT OF THE BEACH CONSERVATION OFFICER



Powder Point bridge and beach

Beach conservation material and its installation is most apparent. In March, we photo-mapped the entire beach; this had not been repeated since the 1930's.

Christmas trees were again distributed by over 50 volunteers and their more than 20 sand vehicles.

April, 51,750 culms of American beach grass were set by 160 plus volunteers during a rainy 12-hour period.

Seasonal cleanups were well supported by townspeople.

May, 11 tons of 15-15-15 fertilizer were applied to the 125-acre foredune area as recommended by a fixed-wing agricultural aircraft.

Conservation Officers and neighborhood youth corps workers: Robbie Andrews and Brian McEvoy, supervised by Mike Burke, numbered the 145 telephone poles for patrol, and project area identification.

Fencing of 2 types was erected: post and cable for vehicle control and snow-type fencing for dune stabilization. Over 6400 ft. of cable was cut and unravelled; 5400 plus feet were installed. 172 piling posts were installed by contract machinery. 41 telephone pole posts, 324 pine posts and 90 recycled bridge timber posts were set by hand. 6300 ft. of sand fencing was donated or purchased; 3400 ft. erected.

It is significant that Plymouth is requesting a beach conservation officer. Also, that the Gurnet-Saquish Residents' Corporation have formed a beach conservation committee to work in cooperation with your program. Furthermore, this same community has erected a gate restricting general traffic from entrance to their private property. They are perfecting their present resident sticker identification program.

I thank the Duxbury Beach Association trustees, the board of selectmen, the beach operations committee, and the beach advisory group for their continued cooperation in management of the beach.

A salute to Steve Keane and other students representing the Habitat Institute for the Environment, Belmont. The National Environmental Protection Agency has recognized this school for its

Thanks to overwhelming public support, your marginally-funded pilot project of 1973 has evolved into a moderately-funded program with a strong achievement record. Timely reports have been written in the **Clipper**.

Duxbury Beach is conserving itself via natural processes assisted by human efforts and man-made structures; concurrently, regulated recreational use of this sedimentary barrier continues. The beach is not a divorced entity; it creates other valuable areas, such as the bay, the great marsh, sheltered mainland shoreline and harbors, all of which have granted Duxbury its reputation as an attractive, south shore community.

Your 1974 Town Meeting vote decided that a team of multiple-use conservation officers would be employed on a seasonal or demand basis, working a schedule governed by beach population, restoration projects and weather. The officers are John Aldrich, Tony Horner, Don Kendrew, Line Lyman, Charles Lagerstedt and Peter Stott. Each has contributed over and above his normal duties.

Our efforts have been in 2 inseparable areas: **Educational Enforcement**; greeting the public at the beach entrance on foot and vehicle patrols, and educational presentations; **Ecological Restoration**; physical construction and maintenance of field structures.

An officer's dominant duty alternated weekly between positive enforcement, including the recording of survey information, to field projects. Daily records were kept; as a result, each was able to keep the team's objectives and progress in mind.

Educational Enforcement: Our approach has been cordial, informative, strict and consistent. The field record speaks for itself:

Record use 8-hour period, Sunday, July 21, 1109 vehicles crossed the bridge; 572 cars, 205 beach buggies and Gurnet/Saquish residents, 332 turnarounds, pedestrian-cyclist-sailor estimate 1200, the national passenger/vehicle average is 4 times 1109 vehicles, an estimate of 5636 people using the beach during this period.

Non-resident beach buggy permit sales almost doubled: 1973, 97; permits to November 20, 1974, 178 permits.

No permit parking violations on beach reduced 5 to 1 due to conservation officer controlling beach entrance.

19 special passes recovered and voided, no badges honored whatsoever, only valid beach stickers.

7 reported vehicles lost to peastone terrain, tide and ocean's surf; numerous disabled vehicles were assisted; towing equipment radioed.

3 disabled motorboats assisted, 2 boats found and returned to owners, 3 special patrols for overdue boats; numerous lobster pots and gear to owners.

Many youth and adult service organizations and school systems have viewed our movie, slide and print record.

We thank David Quaid, Gurnet Improvement Association, for the use of his communication systems and aerial photographs. Arthur Cady produced our excellent educational enforcement pamphlet-tool. Thanks also to the Manomet Bird Observatory, USCG, and other cooperating town, state and federal departments.

efforts on Duxbury Beach in conjunction with your program. Thanks also to all other volunteers for their time, energy, suggestions, constructive criticisms, machinery, tools, equipment and fuel.

To date it appears that proceeds from the sale of beach permits will exceed our total Town Meeting appropriation for operating funds. Nevertheless, there is a serious need for additional tools and equipment. Through continued consistent educational enforcement and adequate tools we can make this program self-sustaining. Another of our objectives is to maintain your successful volunteer effort.

I request your continued support to maintain our present standards.

W. Neal Merry
Beach Conservation Officer